

spread awareness about this disease. I encourage you all to join the caucus so that together we can improve the quality of life of those living with Spina Bifida.

I again wish to thank the SBAA and its chapters for all of their hard work to prevent and reduce suffering for those individuals living with Spina Bifida throughout this Nation. We all owe a great debt to the SBAA for what they have done.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 18, 2005*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 17, 2005, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 521, 522 and 523. The rollcalls I missed included a vote on approving the journal, a vote recognizing the importance and positive contributions of chemistry to our everyday lives and supporting the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week, and a vote expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to raising awareness and enhancing the state of computer security in the United States, and supporting the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 521, 522 and 523.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 18, 2005*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of October 17, I missed three Rollcall votes. It was my intention to vote:

"Yes" on Recorded Vote 521 Journal Vote.

"Yes" on Recorded Vote 522 H. Res. 457. Recognizing the importance and positive contributions of chemistry to our everyday lives and supporting the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week (Rep. HOLT—Science).

"Yes" on Recorded Vote 523 H. Res. 491. Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to raising awareness and enhancing the state of computer security in the United States, and supporting the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

#### BELLOWS FALLS ACADEMY CELEBRATES 75 YEARS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

### HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 18, 2005*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend congratulations to Bellows Free Academy of St. Albans, Vermont, on its 75th anniversary. Our democratic society depends for its very existence on an educated and informed population. In that respect, there is no task in

our society more important than educating our youth. For three-quarters of a century, BFA has been doing just that for students in St. Albans and surrounding towns in Franklin County: educating area students academically and preparing them to fully participate in our American democracy.

So it is a particular pleasure for me to recognize the magnitude of this achievement: for 75 years Bellows Free Academy has taught the young citizens of St. Albans and its neighboring towns. Those seven and a half decades have seen the high school serve as a binding force in the community, bringing it together behind sports and drama and whole variety of activities. They have seen generation after generation of young people fully prepared by BFA for the challenges of the adult world, young people whom BFA has taught and trained so they can find satisfying work and take their place as active and concerned members of their communities.

Of course, any institution is really only a reflection of the dedication and commitment of all the people involved with it. So recognition of BFA's 75-year history is really a recognition of the administrators, teachers, and, of course, students—present and former—who themselves are a living testament to the important role that BFA has played and continues to play in the lives of so many since its founding.

At time of this celebration, let me offer the wish that many, many more decades of rich and productive accomplishment lay ahead for Bellows Free Academy, its students, its teachers and its support community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 18, 2005*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 7, 2005, I was unavoidably detained and thus missed rollcall vote No. 520. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 520, H. Con. Res. 248, honoring the life and work of Simon Wiesenthal and reaffirming the commitment of Congress to the fight against anti-Semitism and intolerance in all forms, in all forums, and in all nations.

#### IN MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN DALLAS FIRE FIGHTERS

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 18, 2005*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the Dallas Fire Fighters who have laid down their lives in the line of duty while serving the citizens of the City of Dallas. They will be remembered at the Dallas Fire-Rescue Department Memorial Service at the Dodd J. Miller, Jr. Training Center on October 22. In addition, I honor the family, friends and fellow fire fighters who grieve their loss and carry out their legacies.

Many times it is only the fire fighters that stand between our communities and countless dangers. In times of need, they are the first to arrive and remain vigilant on the front lines.

We have come to depend on their heroism, fortitude and bravery and they never falter.

I encourage the loved ones of these fallen heroes to reflect on the selflessness of their sacrifice and the glory of their actions. In the face of great danger, they did not waver in their commitment to help those who could not help themselves.

I am privileged to represent these true American heroes. They served with pride and died with honor and we will forever be grateful for their selfless service. May their loved ones and colleagues accept the many thanks of our grateful nation.

#### HONORING JACK C. SMITH AND FOOD CITY'S 50 YEARS OF BUSINESS

### HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 18, 2005*

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of a man who has made a significant presence on the business landscape of Tennessee, Virginia, and Kentucky. In 1954, Jack C. Smith made a decision to get into the grocery business in his hometown of Grundy, Virginia. It is a simple story of a man at the age of 29 who saw a need for his community, worked with his family to find the necessary startup capital, and started a grocery store that has not only survived, but thrived and has become a fixture in the region. The following excerpt from the book *The Grocer and his Dream—The Story of Jack Smith and KVAT Foods* tells the story:

Jack Curtis Smith was born August 21, 1925 in Grundy, VA, deep in the coal mining region of Buchanan County. He was the only child of Curtis and Elizabeth Belcher Smith.

The nation was on the verge of World War II when Jack graduated from Grundy High School in 1942 and set his sights on a military career. Specifically, he wanted to be in the Navy and he wanted to become an officer.

On Flag Day, June 14, 1944, Jack Smith was sworn in as a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Jack graduated in June, 1947 as an electrical engineer.

Jack and Judy Smith were married in a formal military ceremony at the Naval Academy Chapel, September 20, 1947. "We had the crossed swords, everything," Jack recalls.

In Spring, 1954, Jack Smith was back in his picturesque hometown of Grundy, VA after 10 years in the Navy. Jack and his young family had just finished an exhausting trek from California to the mountains of southwest Virginia where he expected to help his cousin Ernest Smith open several new Ben Franklin variety stores.

"When I got back to Grundy I went to see my cousin Ernest and said, 'Well, I'm ready to go to work,'" Jack explains. "Then Ernest told me he didn't think his planned expansion was going to work out."

Ernest Smith had operated a successful Ben Franklin store in Grundy for several years and was in the market to purchase several additional stores in the area. The deal, however, didn't pan out and Jack Smith suddenly found himself with a wife, two young daughters and no job.

"As luck would have it, mother sent me to the store one day. It was just a little A&P with two checkouts and one of those never

opened. I got the groceries I needed, and then had to stand in line for 45 minutes. I got back home and told my family, 'I think I've found me something to do. What this town needs is a good supermarket.'"

The idea was sound. Grundy did, indeed, need a good supermarket. The question was how Jack could pull it off.

He talked with his father, Curtis Smith, a successful local businessman; his uncle Earl Smith, who was Buchanan County treasurer; and his cousin Ernest and they agreed that opening a modern supermarket in Grundy made a lot of sense from a business standpoint.

Earl Smith put up some land he owned as his part of the deal and the other three agreed to borrow \$60,000 each to match the value of the land. Thus the original four stockholders of the budding grocery business were Jack Smith, his father, Curtis; his uncle, Earl Smith; and his cousin, Ernest.

"So, here I am, 29 years old. I don't know a thing about the grocery business and we've all borrowed money to open a supermarket that I don't know a thing about running," Jack says.

"Course, Ernest was thinking all the time," Jack continues. "He's heard of a company called Piggly Wiggly because there were Piggly Wiggly stores all around southwest Virginia. So he contacted the Piggly Wiggly Corporation while we started ground preparation on our store site. In a few days two representatives from Piggly Wiggly, field representative George Fox and Tommy Thompson, vice president in charge of the Piggly Wiggly factory that made store fixtures, came to Grundy and we showed them what we had in mind."

"They said, 'This looks good. It looks real good. Now what we need is to have you fellows come down to our factory in Jackson, Tennessee and we'll design you a store.'"

The partners quickly hammered out a franchise agreement with Piggly Wiggly and the grocery chain's design division laid out the new supermarket and supplied the fixtures. "Our fixtures were a little different," Jack recalls. "Everyone else had white in those days but ours were color coded for different departments. I had the most beautiful store anybody ever saw."

The Grundy Piggly Wiggly, with 8,800 square feet of space, opened for business on November 17, 1955. It was located on Route 83 North.

Although he had never dreamed of becoming a grocer, Jack Smith was now in the grocery business, an enterprise that would consume his energies for the next half century.

Mr. Speaker, KVAT Food Stores, Inc. will soon be opening its 92nd store in Vansant, Virginia. The date of the opening will be November 17, 2005, 50 years to the day of the opening of its store in Grundy. With 92 stores in Southeast Kentucky, Southwest Virginia, and Northeast Tennessee, the KVAT stores, operating under the name Food City, are pillars of their local communities. In addition, their success has been shared back with the communities they serve. Food City is well known with its programs like Apples for the Students, in which the company has donated over seven million dollars in equipment to schools in their three state service region. In addition, Food City also partners with farmers in Southwest VA and Northeast TN to bring local produce to its customers which helps local farmers and satisfies customer demand.

Finally, Food City shares its success with its employees. In fact, the company now has 16 percent of its ownership held by its associates, a number expected to continually rise with its profit sharing plans.

KVAT and Food City deserve recognition at their 50 years of service and success, and I know that the congressional delegation of this region join me in honoring the vision of Jack Smith and celebrating all of those who have worked so hard to see its success over the last 50 years.

#### IN MEMORIAM OF ROBERT HANSON, LAST "MEMPHIS BELLE" CREW MEMBER

#### HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of Sergeant Robert J. Hanson, the last surviving crew member of the famed *Memphis Belle* B-17 that flew combat missions during World War II. Mr. Hanson was a man of character, capacity, compassion and courage. We are all saddened by his loss.

Robert was born in Walla Walla, WA, joined the military in 1941, and was assigned to the crew of the *Memphis Belle*.

Early in World War II, the United States 8th Air Force decided to use its heavy bombers in daytime attacks against occupied Europe. The British predicted horrible losses during daylight raids. It was not surprising that the first bomber crew to complete 25 missions would be regarded as heroes.

The crew of the *Memphis Belle* was the first to complete a combat tour. Between November 7, 1942 and May 17, 1943, the crew flew missions ranging from 4 to almost 10 hours in duration. For these missions Robert Hanson and his fellow airmen were awarded the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross. The *Memphis Belle* and its crew were then returned to the United States on a morale-building tour of aircraft plants.

Sergeant Hanson served as the radio operator on the *Memphis Belle*. He put the name of his sweetheart, Irene, next to the window where he sat just in case someone needed to know who to contact if he died in combat.

During its missions, the *Memphis Belle* was hit by flak, cannon shells and machine gun bullets. The plane's major parts were replaced at least once, and four crew members died during combat.

Sergeant Hanson himself narrowly escaped serious injury or even death. He was writing in a log book one day and had to sneeze. As his head moved, a bullet missed him and put a hole through the book.

He regaled family and friends with his experiences about a chase involving several German planes, the bomber's tail being shot off and a nose dive that left the crew wondering if they should use their parachutes.

Upon leaving the service, he went on to work as a salesman for Nalley Fine Foods in Walla Walla, WA, and became a regional manager. He later worked for a candy company in Spokane, Wash. He and Irene recently moved to Albuquerque, NM, to be near their daughter.

In his later years, he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, and when he was able, he toured the country speaking about his experiences aboard the *Memphis Belle*.

Sergeant Hanson was a loving husband and father and a loyal friend. I extend my deepest sympathy during this time of bereavement to his wife of 63 years, Irene; his daughter, Mary Black; his son, Rick Hanson; and his six grandchildren.

Not only was Robert Hanson part of our Greatest Generation, he was a true hero, aptly defined as one who inspires through manners and actions, who leads through personal example and accomplishments requiring bravery, skill, and determination.

Mr. Speaker, when radio operators signed off using Morse code, they keyed Dit-Dit-Dit-Dah-Dit-Dah. And, Robert was fond of ending his phone conversations in this way. In honor to him, I ask my colleagues to rise with me and say Dit-Dit-Dit-Dah-Dit-Dah.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 17, I was unavoidably detained in Kentucky and was not present for rollcall votes No. 521, 522 and 523. The votes were on approving the Journal, and House Resolutions 457 and 491. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all measures.

#### HONORING NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

#### HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor National Hispanic Heritage Month. Our nation's greatest strength is its heritage of diversity and this month is a tribute to the more than 35 million Americans who identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino and the many millions who came before them. We thank them for their contributions to America, from protecting the nation from its enemies, to representing it abroad and strengthening it from within.

Hispanic Americans have flourished in every field, from politics to business to academia to entertainment. From the first Hispanic U.S. Congressman in 1822 to David Farragut, the first four-star Navy Admiral and famed Civil War leader, Hispanic Americans have played an integral part of our nation's history at every turn.

That history of service and patriotism continues today with the more than 200,000 Hispanics currently in the Armed Services. We thank them, for every time they don the uniform they do it with honor. They have fought proudly and bravely and 41 men of Hispanic heritage have been honored with the Congressional Medal of Honor. There are countless more that go unthanked. They face danger every day in our streets and in our homes as first responders; as policemen, as firemen and as paramedics.

I was proud to join the Immigration Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee earlier this year. I will continue to fight for the